

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 2 – 4, 8, 12, and 13.

1. (previously presented) A slider for a disk drive, comprising:

a supporting structure having a top surface including a pocket and a plurality of protrusions protruding from the pocket, each of the protrusions having a protruding end that defines an air bearing surface; and

a coating on the entire top surface of the supporting structure other than the air bearing surfaces of the protrusions, such that the air bearing surfaces are completely free of the coating; and wherein

the coating is formed from a material that is softer than the supporting structure.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The slider of claim 1 wherein the material of the coating is selected from the group consisting of metals, carbon, doped carbon, and polymers.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)